

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Darren Crew, #37,806 on 9/3/08.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

3. **Claims 19-22** have been **amended** as follows.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A pipe joint comprising
a first and a second tubular joint member of synthetic resin,
a synthetic resin gasket interposed between abutting portions of the joint members and
screw means for joining the joint members,
the pipe joint being characterized in that the first joint member is provided in an abutting
end face thereof with an annular recessed portion having an opening remaining therein with the
gasket entirely fitted therein,
the second joint member being provided with an annular ridge on an abutting end face
thereof,

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the ridge being fitted in the opening of the recessed portion with the gasket fitted in the recessed portion,

an outer surface of the ridge of the second joint member being pressed against an inner surface of the recessed portion of the first joint member with the gasket interposed between the surfaces in intimate contact therewith approximately over the entire surface areas when the pipe joint is properly tightened up,

a portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially inwardly of the recessed portion being then in intimate contact with a portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially inwardly of the ridge approximately over the entire surface areas thereof,

a portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially outwardly of the recessed portion being then in intimate contact with a portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially outwardly of the ridge approximately over the entire surface areas thereof,

wherein when the pipe joint is manually tightened up, a first gap is present between the portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially inwardly of the recessed portion and the portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially inwardly of the ridge, and a second gap greater than the first gap is present between the portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially outwardly of the recessed portion and the portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially outwardly of the ridge,

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wherein each of the joint members is provided at the abutting end face thereof with a flange portion, and the screw means comprises an annular male screw member having a forward end face in bearing contact with the flange portion of one of the joint members, and a cap nut fitted around the other joint member and having a top wall in bearing contact with the flange portion of said other joint member, the cap nut being screwed on the male screw member, wherein

a synthetic resin thrust ring is interposed between the cap nut top wall and the flange portion of the joint member, wherein

the thrust ring has an outside diameter larger than ~~the~~an inside diameter of the cap nut, and the cap nut has an annular recess formed in an inner periphery thereof for accommodating an outer peripheral edge of the thrust ring.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): A pipe joint comprising

a first and a second tubular joint member of synthetic resin, and screw means for joining the joint members,

the pipe joint being characterized in that the first joint member is provided with an annular recessed portion formed between a portion of an abutting end face positioned radially inwardly and a portion of the abutting end face positioned radially outwardly,

the second joint member being provided with an annular ridge on an abutting end face thereof,

the ridge of the second joint member being fitted in the recessed portion of the first joint member, with an outer surface of the ridge in intimate contact with an inner surface of the

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recessed portion approximately over the entire surface areas when the pipe joint is properly tightened up,

the portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially inwardly of the recessed portion being then in intimate contact with a portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially inwardly of the ridge approximately over the entire surface areas thereof,

the portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially outwardly of the recessed portion being then in intimate contact with a portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially outwardly of the ridge approximately over the entire surface areas thereof,

wherein when the pipe joint is manually tightened up, a first gap is present between the portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially inwardly of the recessed portion and the portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially inwardly of the ridge, and a second gap greater than the first gap is present between the portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially outwardly of the recessed portion and the portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially outwardly of the ridge,

wherein each of the joint members is provided at the abutting end face thereof with a flange portion, and the screw means comprises an annular male screw member having a forward end face in bearing contact with the flange portion of one of the joint members, and a cap nut fitted around the other joint member and having a top wall in bearing contact with the flange

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portion of said other joint member, the cap nut being screwed on the male screw member, wherein

a synthetic resin thrust ring is interposed between the cap nut top wall and the flange portion of the joint member, wherein

the thrust ring has an outside diameter larger than ~~the~~ an inside diameter of the cap nut, and the cap nut has an annular recess formed in an inner periphery thereof for accommodating an outer peripheral edge of the thrust ring.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A pipe joint comprising
a first and a second tubular joint member of synthetic resin,
a synthetic resin gasket interposed between abutting portions of the joint members and screw means for joining the joint members,

the pipe joint being characterized in that each of the joint members is provided in an abutting end face thereof with an annular recessed portion for forming a portion for accommodating the gasket therein when the joint members are butted against each other,

the gasket being in intimate contact with an inner surface of the recessed portion of the first joint member approximately over the entire area thereof when the pipe joint is properly tightened up,

a surface portion of the gasket exposed from the same recessed portion being then in intimate contact with an inner surface of the recessed portion of the second joint member approximately over the entire area thereof,

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a portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially inwardly of the recessed portion thereof being then in intimate contact with a portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially inwardly of the recessed portion thereof approximately over the entire surface areas thereof,

a portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially outwardly of the recessed portion thereof being then in intimate contact with a portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially outwardly of the recessed portion thereof approximately over the entire surface areas thereof,

wherein when the pipe joint is manually tightened up, a first gap is present between the portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially inwardly of the recessed portion thereof and the portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially inwardly of the recessed portion thereof, and a second gap greater than the first gap is present between the portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially outwardly of the recessed portion thereof and the portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially outwardly of the recessed portion thereof,

wherein each of the joint members is provided at the abutting end face thereof with a flange portion, and the screw means comprises an annular male screw member having a forward end face in bearing contact with the flange portion of one of the joint members, and a cap nut fitted around the other joint member and having a top wall in bearing contact with the flange portion of said other joint member, the cap nut being screwed on the male screw member, wherein

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a synthetic resin thrust ring is interposed between the cap nut top wall and the flange portion of the joint member, wherein

the thrust ring has an outside diameter larger than ~~the~~ an inside diameter of the cap nut, and the cap nut has an annular recess formed in an inner periphery thereof for accommodating an outer peripheral edge of the thrust ring.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A pipe joint comprising

a first and a second tubular joint member of synthetic resin,

a synthetic resin gasket interposed between abutting portions of the joint members and screw means for joining the joint members,

the pipe joint being characterized in that the first joint member is provided in an abutting end face thereof with an annular recessed portion having an opening remaining therein with the gasket entirely fitted therein,

the second joint member being provided with an annular ridge on an abutting end face thereof,

the ridge being fitted in the opening of the recessed portion with the gasket fitted in the recessed portion,

an outer surface of the ridge of the second joint member being pressed against an inner surface of the recessed portion of the first joint member with the gasket interposed between the surfaces in intimate contact therewith approximately over the entire surface areas when the pipe joint is properly tightened up,

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a portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially inwardly of the recessed portion being then in intimate contact with a portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially inwardly of the ridge approximately over the entire surface areas thereof,

a portion of the abutting end face of the first joint member positioned radially outwardly of the recessed portion being then in intimate contact with a portion of the abutting end face of the second joint member positioned radially outwardly of the ridge approximately over the entire surface areas thereof,

wherein each of the joint members is provided at the abutting end face thereof with a flange portion, and

the screw means comprises an annular male screw member having a forward end face in bearing contact with the flange portion of one of the joint members, and a cap nut fitted around the other joint member and having a top wall in bearing contact with the flange portion of said other joint member,

the cap nut being screwed on the male screw member, wherein

a synthetic resin thrust ring is interposed between the cap nut top wall and the flange portion of the joint member, wherein

the thrust ring has an outside diameter larger than ~~the~~ an inside diameter of the cap nut, and the cap nut has an annular recess formed in an inner periphery thereof for accommodating an outer peripheral edge of the thrust ring.

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fannie Kee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1820. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aaron M Dunwoody/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679

/F. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 3679
September 3, 2008